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GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL.¹

AMERICA.—THE RIO DOCE.—The Rio Doce, Brazil, an account of the exploration of which was recently read by Mr. W. J. Steains before the Royal Geographical Society, appears small when compared with the mighty rivers around it, yet has a length of rather over four hundred and fifty miles. Its head-waters are several streams rising in the Serra da Mantiqueira, the loftiest peak of which, Itatiaiaassu, 10,040 feet, is the highest known elevation in Brazil. The various streams which unite to form the Rio Doce flow in a more or less northerly direction from the northern slope of the Serra and unite into a main river which, after receiving several tributaries, enters the ocean at about 19° 40' south latitude. The Serra da Mantiqueira has a general northeast direction, but the irregular line of the Brazilian coast-range is continued northward by the Serra dos Amores, which is cut through by the Rio Doce in its descent from the interior table-lands. The part of the Rio Doce basin lying east of the last named Serra is a densely wooded lowland, sloping upward to a height of about nine hundred feet, and resolving itself near the coast into a stretch of alluvial ground, studded with small lakes communicating by long winding streams called "valloes." The largest of these, the Lago Juparana, is eighteen miles long, and is connected with the Doce by a tortuous channel of about seven miles. It is fed by the Rio San José, a still unexplored stream, flowing through districts inhabited by wild Botocudos. The forests around it abound in the Jaearandá (*Bignonia cœrulea*), or rosewood tree. The Rio Doce is navigable as far as Porto de Sonza, one hundred and twenty miles from its mouth. Here occur the rapids which mark the crossing of the Serra dos Amores, and falls and rapids are abundant above this. There are, as yet, only three settlements—Linhares, Guandu and Figueira—on the banks of the Doce, though for the greater part of its course grand virgin forests, filled with a hundred varieties of

¹ Edited by W. N. Lockington, Philadelphia, Pa.

the choicest timber, come down to the water's edge in a wall of gloriously wild tropical vegetation. The valley is the home of the Botocudo, who has not yet renounced cannibalism. Mr. Steains does not place the number of these Indians at more than seven thousand, yet states that they form the sole barrier to colonization. Espiritu Santo, the province lying east of the Serra Amores, is at present the poorest province in the empire, and the valley of the Rio Doce is a great gap in the wall of civilization that has been slowly reared along the four thousand nine hundred miles of the Brazilian seaboard. There is not in Brazil a tract naturally richer than that which lies between the Doce and the Mucury to the north of it, yet the Indian is still in possession.

The Botocudos, so called by the Portuguese on account of the "botoque," or lip-ornament, which is the only clothing worn by them, are about five feet four inches in height, broad chested and lean limbed, and with small hands and feet. The plug of wood is first inserted in the under lip when the Indian is three or four years old, and is replaced by a larger until a diameter of three inches is attained. If the lip splits the Indian ties the ends together with bark. The "botoque" is now worn only by the older members of the tribes. The nuts of two or three species of palm form the chief sustenance of these primitive people, and the supply is eked out with game and fish. Mr. Steains ascended the tributaries Tambaquary, San José, Pancas and Rio San Antonio.

In the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Steains' paper, Mr. C. Mackenzie stated that the custom of wearing an ornament in a slit made in the lower lip could be traced with very few breaks from the Eskimo of the Alaskan coast to Brazil.

THE CASSIQUIARI.—M. Chaffanjon, the well-known explorer of the Orinoco, has carefully studied the communication between that river and the Amazon, by means of the Cassiquiar, and comes to the conclusion that it is of recent origin. The rapid current of the Orinoco, as it passes through a gorge only ninety yards wide in the clay deposits, undermines the banks, and this action, combined with actual overflow in the rainy season, has produced a permanent channel. The clay deposits on the left bank have a slope towards the Amazon.

ASIA.—EXPLORATIONS IN NEPAL AND TIBET.—An adventurous journey through Nepal and Tibet has recently been taken by M. H., a native explorer attached to the East Indian Survey. Disguised as a physician, and provided with a stock of medicines and articles for presents, he ascended the Dudhkosi river through Nepal to Khumbujong, about eighteen miles west of Mt. Everest. The governor refused him further passage, but he succeeded in curing that functionary's daughter-in-law of goitre, and soon after started with her husband on a trading expedition into Tibet. The pass

over the Himalayas, called the Pangula, is about 20,000 feet above the sea. More obstruction was met with at Deprak, the frontier village of Tibet, but leave to advance was at length obtained from the governor of Dingri, who exercises all civil and military jurisdiction over a large tract of Southern Tibet. Dingri has about 250 stone houses, and stands at an altitude of 13,360 feet. From Dingri the explorer proceeded by the Digurthanka plain and Palguche lake (said to have no outlet) to Jonkhajong, the most northwestern point reached. Hence he went southwards to Kirong, followed the Tusuli river for awhile, visited Nubri and Arughat (Nepal), and finally, via Deoghat, reached Tirbenighat, on the British frontier on Jan. 13, 1886. Beyond Kirong, on the Nepalese frontier, the road runs along a gallery of planks laid upon iron bolts driven into the rock. Parts of the plain of Southern Tibet show signs of a former larger population, and it is said that in the last great war between the Nepalese and the Tibetans most of the inhabitants were killed.

DR. VON LUSCHAN'S JOURNEY IN ASIA MINOR.—At a recent meeting of the Geographical Society of Berlin, Dr. von Luschan spoke of his explorations in Asia Minor, undertaken chiefly with archæological aims. Dr. Luschan accompanied Otto Bendsdorf into Lycia in 1881, and afterwards visited the tomb of Antiochus I., discovered by Otto Predestein in 1882. This is an immense tumulus on the right bank of the Euphrates, between Iskenderun and Bagdad, on the peak Nemrud Dagħ (7000 feet). The tumulus is flanked on the east and west by five gigantic figures of gods, sixteen to twenty-three feet high. At a distance of ten days' journey from the coast, the traveler along this route comes upon the ancient bridge over the Boilam-Su, a single stone arch, sixty-five feet in height and 325 in length. It was built by Septimius Severus, Caracalla and Geta, and is to-day in perfect preservation. Afterwards Dr. Luschan took part in the expedition of Count Lanckorowski, the object of which was the archæological exploration of Cilicia and Pamphylia. In other later journeys Dr. von Luschan turned his attention to the complicated ethnography of Asia Minor. The Turco-Mongolian anatomical type is not to be found among the so-called Turks of Asia Minor. The Mohammedans of the peninsula belong to three types, viz.: Old-Grecian, Armenian and Semitic. The race which gave the religion and language was numerically too weak to influence, to any considerable extent, the physical nature of the conquered people. The Greeks exhibit the same three types, the true Greek predominating along the west coast and on the islands. The Armenians are a compact and homogeneous people, anatomically allied to the Tachkadschy or Alleor of Lycia, the Ansarieh or Fellach of S. E. Asia Minor

and N. Syria, and the Kizilbash and Tezyde of Upper Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. The Turukes are genuine nomads, traditionally from the Hindu Kush. Turcomans and Kurds also occur, besides Bulgarians, Arnauts, Arabs, Gypsies, Europeans and negroes, all of whom have immigrated in comparatively modern times.

AFRICA.—The recent journey of Bishop Parker and the Rev. J. Blackburn from Mombasa to Mamboia, a point situated about 200 miles east of the port of Saadani, fills up another gap in the map of Africa. The region proved to be one of the most varied, mountainous, and richly wooded on the continent, and seems to be a succession of high ridges and valleys. The regions passed through were those of Usambara, Useguha and Nguru. Southeastward of the route taken by the previously named gentlemen, Count Pfeil has been actively engaged in exploring Useguha, along the lines of the Rufu and its tributary, the Mkomazi; then south to the basin of the Wami. From Mbnzini, on the Rukagura, he proceeded southwards across the plains between the Wami and the Geringeri, and then followed the course of the latter river to its junction with the Kingani, finally reaching the coast at Bagamoyo.

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS.—M. Thonar, who was believed to have perished in the Gran Chaco, has returned to Port Pacheco with his companions.

It now appears that Dr. Meyer did not ascend to within 2000 feet of the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The volume of water discharged every second by Lake Baikal through the Angara reaches 121,353 cubic feet, and the vertical section of the river at its issue is, according to the *Izvestia*, 17,920 feet.

Gen. A. Houtum-Schindler (*Proc. Roy. Geog. Soc.*, Feb. 1888), gives a summary of the various barometrical and trigonometrical observations that have been made at the altitude of Demavend, the highest peak of the Elbruz Mountains (Persia), and arrives at a result of about 19,400 feet. Although no eruption of Demavend is on record, smoke, or at least steam, has been stated to have been seen to issue from it.